GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
LIVESTOCK CENSUS IN J & K AND W. BENGAL
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;BIR SING MAHATO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Livestock Census has been conducted recently in Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of cattle especially the number of milch cattle in these States;

(c) the status of cross breed cattle in these States; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union as well as State Governments to increase the number of cattle and also to improve their breed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Government of Jammu & Kashmir conducted the 16th Livestock Census in1997 while the livestock census was not conducted by the State Government of West Bengal.

(b): In Jammu & Kashmir, the total number of cattle population is 31.75 lakhs and outof this the total number of milch cattle is 6.99 lakhs. On the basis of projected figures given by the Government of West Bengal, the total cattle population is estimated to be178.32 lakhs out of which the number of milch cattle is 30.37 lakhs.

(c): In Jammu & Kashmir the total cross-breed cattle population is 10.83 lakhs and inWest Bengal the total cross breed cattle population is 9.36 lakhs

(d): The main focus of policy of the Government at present is to reduce mortality incattle by undertaking livestock health cover. It is felt that the number of cattle exceeds the carrying capacity of the land with an increasing human population competing with animals for the produce of the land. Therefore, the approach has been to concentrate on improvement of productivity of cattle rather than increasing their number. Both the States and Centre have established breeding farms for supply of improved germplasm. A national project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has also been initiated to reach quality breeding inputs at farmer`s doorstep.